Executive Proclamation
State of South Dakota
Office of the Governor

Whereas, The Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America annually recognize the contributions and service of the 1.8 million women who have served in the United States Armed Forces; and,

Whereas, There are more than 1,674,724 women veterans in the United States representing 15.1 percent of the total veteran population; and,

Whereas, The 2004 census identified 5,229 women Active Duty, Reserve, and National Guard in South Dakota and the number of Women serving in the United States Armed Forces and the number of women veterans continue to increase; and,

Whereas, The 14.8 percent of active duty military personnel are women, and 15.5 percent of reserve units are women; and,

Whereas, More than 90 percent of all career fields in the Armed Forces are now open to women; and,

Whereas, Women veterans have contributed greatly to the security of the United States through honorable military service, often involving great hardship and danger; and,

Whereas, Recognizing women veterans will help both to promote important gains made by women veterans and to focus attention on the special needs of women veterans:

Now, Therefore, I, M. Michael Rounds, Governor of the state of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim October 1, 2004, as

WOMEN VETERANS' RECOGNITION DAY

in South Dakota, and I ask all citizens to join me in thanking and recognizing the women veterans of our great state.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the state of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Seventeenth Day of August in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Four.

M. Michael Rounds, Governor

Attest:

Chris Nelson, Secretary of State